

WHERE IS THE SENATE?

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, as the United States reasserts itself on the world's stage, it is time for robust engagement. We must reengage with our allies and regain our footing as a global leader. But we are standing in our own way.

Mr. Speaker, 100 ambassadorial positions are currently unfilled, with 60 awaiting Senate action. Where is the Senate?

Mr. Speaker, more than 300 national security professionals asked this same question this morning in a letter to Senate leadership.

We do not have representatives to NATO, the European Union, ASEAN, or the Organization of American States. Despite our significant interests in the Middle East, we lack an Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs and an ambassador to Israel.

Mr. Speaker, we are sending a dangerous message of neglect and indifference to our allies and adversaries. The Senate must act.

I join the hundreds of esteemed former ambassadors and Pentagon officials in urging the Senate to begin hearings and to schedule votes for all pending State Department and USAID nominees.

I include in the RECORD a letter from Foreign Policy for America.

FOREIGN POLICY FOR AMERICA,
Washington, DC, October 28, 2021.

Hon. CHARLES SCHUMER,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Senator BOB MENENDEZ,
Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign
Relations, Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Senator JAMES E. RISCH,
Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on
Foreign Relations, Washington, DC.

We write as senior national security professionals to express our alarm over the dangerously slow pace of Senate confirmations of State Department and USAID officials over the past ten months. The resulting vacancies have damaged U.S. national security and our ability to address international threats. We ask for your urgent attention to resolving this situation.

The United States cannot afford to be absent at this time of strategic competition with China. Yet, at this moment, 100 Ambassadorial positions are unfilled with 60 awaiting Senate action. As President Biden prepares to meet with world leaders at the G20 summit, the Senate has confirmed just two of the president's Ambassadorial nominations to G20 member states. As the world works to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States lacks both an Assistant Secretary for International Organization Affairs and a USAID Assistant Administrator for Global Health. Of the 17 world leaders known to be attending the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow in November, only one has had the opportunity to coordinate in advance with a confirmed U.S. Ambassador. Nearly half of Ambassadorial posts on the African continent have nominees stalled in the Senate. The sum total of missed opportunities is staggering.

In addition to placing the United States at a strategic disadvantage, Washington has sent an unfortunate message of neglect and indifference. We currently lack Representatives to both NATO and the European Union, to ASEAN, and to the Organization of American States. In Canada, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom, the lack of confirmed U.S. Ambassadors neglects historic allies. Despite our significant interests in the Middle East and the threats posed by Iran, the United States currently has neither an Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs nor an Ambassador to Israel. As we call for a free and open Indo-Pacific, the United States lacks an Ambassador not only to China, but to Australia, Bangladesh, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.

In Washington, widespread leadership vacancies and stopgap appointments have resulted in an overstretched workforce and unacceptable risks. As conflicts and natural disasters spur population displacement unseen since World War II, the United States has neither an Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration nor an Assistant Secretary of State for Conflict and Stability Operations. President Biden's nominee for Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, whose nomination was announced on April 23rd, was not confirmed until September 13th, well after the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. The State Department is planning to host a global Summit for Democracy in December, but does so without an Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor. Countless other vacancies have resulted in unsustainable workloads, undermining morale and retention.

As you are aware, the Senate has thus far confirmed only two of President Biden's ambassadorial nominees, and just eleven Assistant Secretaries of State. At USAID, only two appointees requiring Senate confirmation have been approved. Of the 235 Senate-confirmed State Department positions, only 24 have confirmed occupants, while 83 are at the Senate awaiting confirmation. This is well below the number of nominees confirmed at similar points in the first terms of Presidents Trump, Obama, and George W. Bush.

We note with particular regret that individual Senators have blocked the confirmations of exceptionally qualified nominees for reasons completely unrelated to their credentials. There is no question that this practice, which has been employed by members of both parties, has eroded America's global leadership and contributed to a perception among our friends as well as our adversaries that the United States is in decline.

The steady atrophy of our diplomatic capacity poses an unacceptable risk to U.S. national security. We urge you to exercise decisive leadership to swiftly facilitate committee hearings and votes for all pending State Department and USAID nominees. If unanimous consent agreements cannot be obtained to expedite votes, we ask that you once again dedicate the floor time necessary to approve these nominations by regular order.

Sincerely,
Ambassador (Ret.) Bernadette M. Allen,
Ambassador (Ret.) Frank Almaguez,
Major General (Ret.) Joseph T. Anderson,
Brigadier General (Ret.) Steven M. Anderson,

Ms. Wendy R. Anderson,
Major General (Ret.) Marcia M. Anderson,
Brigadier General (Ret.) Ricardo Aponte,
Honorable Bernard Aronson,
Ambassador (Ret.) Liliana Ayalde,
Ambassador (Ret.) Daniel Baer,

Ambassador (Ret.) Robert Cushman Barber,

Ambassador (Ret.) Adrian A. Basora,
Ambassador (Ret.) Leslie Bassett,
Ambassador (Ret.) Robert M. Beecroft,
Honorable Rand B. Beers,
Ambassador (Ret.) Colleen Bell,
Mr. John B. Bellinger III,
Ms. Jenna H. Ben-Yehuda,
Mr. Robert J. Berg,
Honorable Stuart Bernstein,
Ambassador (Ret.) Bruce G. Berton,
Ambassador (Ret.) John R. Beyrle,
Dr. Hans Binnendijk,
Ambassador (Ret.) Clyde Bishop,
Ambassador (Ret.) James Bishop,
Lieutenant General (Ret.) Robert R. Blank,

Ambassador (Ret.) Jeff Bleich,
Ambassador (Ret.) Peter W. Bodde,
Ambassador (Ret.) Barbara Bodine,
Ambassador (Ret.) Michele Thoren Bond,
Ambassador (Ret.) Amy L. Bondurant,
Rear Admiral (Ret.) David M. Boone,
Ambassador (Ret.) Eric Boswell,
Ambassador (Ret.) Richard Boucher,
Vice Admiral (Ret.) William Bowes,
Ambassador (Ret.) Robert Bradtke,
Ambassador (Ret.) Aurelia Brazeal,
Ambassador (Ret.) James Brewster,
Ambassador (Ret.) Pamela E. Bridgewater,
Ambassador (Ret.) Kenneth C. Brill,
Ambassador (Ret.) Timothy M. Broas,
Ambassador (Ret.) Sue Brown,
Ambassador (Ret.) Kenneth Brown,
Ambassador (Ret.) Steven Browning,
Ambassador (Ret.) George Bruno,
Ambassador (Ret.) Susan Flood Burk,
Ambassador (Ret.) A. Peter Burleigh,
Ambassador (Ret.) Prudence Bushnell,
Rear Admiral (Ret.) John D. Butler,
Honorable Louis E. Caldera,
Honorable Carlos Cardozo Campbell,
Ambassador (Ret.) Piper Campbell,
Brigadier General (Ret.) George J. Cannelos,

Ambassador (Ret.) David L. Carden,
Dr. Patrick Carrick,
Mr. Steven A. Cash,
Ambassador (Ret.) Judith Beth Cefkin,
Mr. Christopher M. Centner,
Ambassador (Ret.) Wendy Chamberlin,
Ambassador (Ret.) Daniel A. Clune,
Mr. Harry Coker Jr.,
Honorable Erin C. Conaton,
Ambassador (Ret.) Elinor G. Constable,
Mr. Patrick C. Costello,
Ambassador (Ret.) William Courtney,
Mr. Allen B. Craft,
Mr. Daniel T. Crocker,
Ms. Marilee Cunningham,
Ambassador (Ret.) James B. Cunningham,
Ambassador (Ret.) Walter Cutler,
Honorable Janine Davidson,
Ambassador (Ret.) Glyn T. Davies,
Ambassador (Ret.) Ruth A. Davis,
Rear Admiral (Ret.) Scott Deitchman, MD,
MPH,

Ambassador (Ret.) Greg Delawie,
Major General (Ret.) Richard T. Devereaux,

Ambassador (Ret.) Miguel H. Diaz,
Ms. Suzanne DiMaggio,
Ambassador (Ret.) Kathleen Ann Doherty,
Ambassador (Ret.) Shaun Donnelly,
Ambassador (Ret.) Thomas Dougherty,
Honorable John Wade Douglass,
Ambassador (Ret.) David J. Dunford,
Major General (Ret.) Paul D. Eaton,
Ambassador (Ret.) Luigi R. Einaudi,
Ambassador (Ret.) Susan M. Elliott,
Ambassador (Ret.) Gregory W. Engle,
Honorable William Enyart,
Major General (Ret.) John L. Estrada,
Ms. Elisa Catalano Ewers,
Ambassador (Ret.) Kenneth J. Fairfax,
Dr. Evelyn N. Farkas, Ph.D.,
Brigadier General (Ret.) Robert Felderman,

Ambassador (Ret.) Gerald Feierstein,
Brigadier General Robert Felderman
(Ret.),
Ms. Ilsa Ferro,
Ambassador (Ret.) Kathleen M.
Fitzpatrick,
Honorable Michele A. Flournoy,
Ambassador (Ret.) Robert S. Ford,
Ms. Stephanie Foster,
Major General (Ret.) Eugene Fox,
Vice Admiral (ret.) Michael Franken,
Ms. Anita E. Friedt,
Ambassador (Ret.) Julie Furuta-Toy,
Mr. Melvin Gamble,
Lieutenant General Robert G. Gard Jr.,
Master Gunnery Sergeant (Ret.) Joseph H.
Geeter,
Ambassador (Ret.) Robert S. Gelbard,
Honorable Rose Gottemoeller,
Ambassador (Ret.) Gordon Gray,
Vice Admiral (Ret.) Kevin P. Green,
Ms. Naima Green-Riley,
Vice Admiral (Ret.) Lee Gunn,
Rear Admiral (Ret.) Donald J. Guter,
Ambassador (Ret.) Lino Gutiérrez,
Ambassador (Ret.) Sheila Gwaltney,
Ambassador (Ret.) Ken Hackett,
Ambassador (Ret.) Pamela K. Hamamoto,
Rear Admiral (Ret.) Janice M. Hamby,
Ambassador (Ret.) S. Fitzgerald Haney,
Lieutenant (Ret.) Kenneth E. Harbaugh,
Rear Admiral (Ret.) Charles Dulaney Harr,
Ambassador (Ret.) Anthony Stephen Har-
rington,
Ambassador (Ret.) Douglas Hartwick,
Dr. and Major General (Ret.) Ralph L.
Haynes,
Mr. Leif Hall Hendrickson,
Rear Admiral (Ret.) Leendert “Len”
Hering,
Ms. Margaret H. Henoch,
Ambassador (Ret.) Bruce Alan Heyman,
Ambassador (Ret.) William H. Hill,
Honorable Eric L. Hirschhorn,
Ambassador (Ret.) Heather Hodges,
Ms. Sally K. Horn,
Ms. Sharon A. Houy,
Ambassador (Ret.) Thomas C. Hubbard,
Ambassador (Ret.) Vicki J. Huddleston,
Ambassador (Ret.) Cameron Hume,
Honorable Robert Hutchings,
Rear Admiral (Ret.) John D. Hutson,
Admiral (Ret.) Bobby R. Inman,
Rear Admiral (Ret.) Lawrence B. Jackson,
Ambassador (Ret.) Janice Jacobs,
Ambassador (Ret.) Susan Jacobs,
Ambassador (Ret.) David Jacobson,
Ambassador (Ret.) Roberta Jacobson,
Ambassador (Ret.) Dennis C. Jett,
Ambassador (Ret.) Brenda Johnson,
Ambassador (Ret.) David T. Johnson,
Representative (Ret.) Donald Johnson,
Brigadier General (Ret.) James D. John-
son,
Mr. Lionel C. Johnson,
Ms. Susan R. Johnson,
Ambassador (Ret.) Deborah Jones,
Ambassador (Ret.) John Melvin Jones,
Ambassador (Ret.) Richard H. Jones,
Lieutenant General (Ret.) Jan-Marc Jouas,
Mr. Philip Karsting,
Ambassador (Ret.) Richard D. Kauzlarich,
Ambassador (Ret.) Craig Kelly,
Honorable Raymond D. Kemp Sr.,
Ambassador (Ret.) Laura Kennedy,
Ambassador (Ret.) David T. Killion,
Ambassador (Ret.) Michael Klosson,
Dr. Susan J. Koch,
Ambassador (Ret.) Eleni Kounalakis,
Ambassador (Ret.) Lisa Kubiske,
Ambassador (Ret.) Daniel Kurtzer,
Ambassador (Ret.) Mark P. Lagon,
Mr. Brett B. Lambert,
Ambassador (Ret.) Joyce E. Leader,
Ambassador (Ret.) Richard LeBaron,
Vice Admiral (Ret.) Michael A. LeFever,
Ambassador (Ret.) Alfonso E. Lenhardt,
Major General (Ret.) Michael Lehnert,

Ambassador (Ret.) Michael C. Lemmon,
Major General (Ret.) Steven J. Lepper,
Ambassador (Ret.) Melvyn Levitsky,
Ambassador (Ret.) Dawn Liberi,
Dr. David M. Litchman,
Ambassador (Ret.) David C. Litt,
Ambassador (Ret.) Hugo Llorens,
Ambassador (Ret.) Carmen Lomellin,
Ms. Kerry Lowry,
Mr. Frank E. Loy,
Lieutenant General (Ret.) Charles D.
Luckey,
Ambassador (Ret.) Douglas Lute,
Rear Admiral (Ret.) Ron J. Maclaren,
Rear Admiral (Ret.) Archer M. Macy,
Major General (Ret.) Albert J. Madara,
Ambassador (Ret.) Deborah R. Malac,
Ambassador (Ret.) Eileen A. Malloy,
Ambassador (Ret.) Steven R. Mann,
Major General (Ret.) Randy Manner,
Major General (Ret.) Frederick H. Martin,
Ambassador (Ret.) Vilma S. Martinez,
Ambassador (Ret.) Gail Dennise Mathieu,
Ambassador (Ret.) Jack F. Matlock Jr.,
Ms. Barbara Estock Mays,
Ambassador (Ret.) Deborah Ann McCarthy,
Mr. Michael V. McClary,
Ambassador (Ret.) Donald McConnell,
Rear Admiral (Ret.) William J. McDaniel,
Ambassador (Ret.) Michael McFaul,
Ambassador (Ret.) Steven McGann,
Mr. David L. McGinnis,
Mr. James McIlmail,
Brigadier General (Ret.) Joseph V. Medina,
Ms. Subhi Mehdi,
Ambassador (Ret.) Thomas J. Miller,
Rear Admiral (Ret.) Michael H. Mittelman,
Ambassador (Ret.) Patricia N. Moller,
Brigadier General (Ret.) Mark A. Montjar,
Ms. Regina T. Montoya,
Vice Admiral Edward Moore,
Ambassador (Ret.) Roderick W. Moore,
Mr. Edward T. (Tom) Morehouse,
Ambassador (Ret.) Luis G. Moreno,
Ambassador (Ret.) Allan Mustard,
Ambassador (Ret.) Larry C. Napper,
Ambassador (Ret.) David D. Nelson,
Ms. Barbara Estock Mays,
Ambassador (Ret.) Deborah Ann McCarthy,
Mr. Michael V. McClary,
Ambassador (Ret.) Donald McConnell,
Rear Admiral (Ret.) William J. McDaniel,
Ambassador (Ret.) Michael McFaul,
Ambassador (Ret.) Steven McGann,
Mr. David L. McGinnis,
Mr. James McIlmail,
Brigadier General (Ret.) Joseph V. Medina,
Ms. Subhi Mehd,
Ambassador (Ret.) Wanda Nesbitt,
Mr. Brian H. Nilsson,
Ambassador (Ret.) Crystal Nix-Hines,
Ms. Suzanne Nossel,
Honorable Sean O’Keefe,
Ambassador (Ret.) Kevin F. O’Malley,
Rear Admiral (Ret.) David Rogers Oliver,
Jr.,
Ambassador (Ret.) Richard G. Olson,
Mr. Stanley A. Otto,
Ambassador (Ret.) Maurice S Parker,
Ambassador (Ret.) William Robert Pear-
son,
Ambassador (Ret.) Tom Perriello,
Ambassador (Ret.) June Carter Perry,
Ambassador (Ret.) Robert C. Perry,
Honorable F. Whitten Peters,
Ambassador (Ret.) James D. Pettit,
Ms. Annie Pforzheimer,
Major General (Ret.) Jeffrey E. Phillips,
Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering,
Mr. William Richard Piekney,
Ambassador (Ret.) Steven Pifer,
Ambassador (Ret.) Joan Plaisted,
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Joseph M.
Plenzler,
Ambassador (Ret.) Michael C. Polt,
Ambassador (Ret.) Jo Ellen Powell,
Mr. Jeffrey Pryce,
Ambassador (Ret.) Jon R. Purnell,

Ms. Karen Puschel Segal,
Rear Admiral (Ret.) William Putnam,
Honorable Marilyn A. Quagliotti,
Ambassador (Ret.) Jack R. Binns,
Major General (Ret.) William M. Rajczak,
Ambassador (Ret.) Robin Raphael,
Ambassador (Ret.) Charles Ray,
Ambassador (Ret.) Frankie Reed,
Ambassador (Ret.) Helen Patricia Reed-
Rowe,
Mr. Ben Rhodes,
Honorable Clyde E. Robbins,
Ambassador (Ret.) Thomas Robertson,
Ambassador (Ret.) Peter Romero,
Ambassador (Ret.) Selwa Roosevelt,
Ambassador (Ret.) Jim Rosapepe,
Ambassador (Ret.) Leslie V. Rowe,
Mr. Joel Rubin,
Brigadier General (Ret.) Murray G.
Sagsveen,
Ms. Heather Samuelson,
Ambassador (Ret.) Janet Sanderson,
Ambassador (Ret.) Miriam Sapiro,
Ambassador (Ret.) Teresita C. Schaffer,
Ambassador (Ret.) Andrew H. Schapiro,
Ambassador (Ret.) Arthur Schechter,
Mr. James Schumaker,
Mr. Jack Segal,
Lieutenant General (Ret.) Norman Seip,
Congressman Joe Ambrose Sestak,
Honorable Andrew J. Shapiro,
Ambassador (Ret.) Mattie Sharpless,
Honorable David B. Shear,
Ambassador (Ret.) Robert A. Sherman,
Dr. Russell Shilling,
Ambassador (Ret.) Douglas A. Silliman,
Ambassador (Ret.) Lawrence Silverman,
Mr. John Sipher,
Ambassador (Ret.) Emil M. Skodon,
Rear Admiral (Ret.) Michael E. Smith,
Brigadier General (Ret.) Paul Gregory
Smith,
Ambassador (Ret.) Alan Solomont,
Ambassador (Ret.) Pamela L. Spratlen,
Ambassador (Ret.) Sylvia Stanfield,
Honorable Gregory Starr,
Honorable Clifford L. Stanley,
Major General (Ret.) Howard D. Standahl,
Lieutenant General (Ret.) Mitchell Her-
man Stevenson,
Lieutenant General (Ret.) Vincent Stew-
art,
Ambassador (Ret.) Timothy Towell,
Dr. Gregory F. Treverton,
Major General (Ret.) F. Andrew Turley,
Rear Admiral William S. Stokes,
Ambassador (Ret.) Cynthia Stroum,
Dr. Gordon Sumner, PhD,
Ambassador (Ret.) Teddy Taylor,
Ambassador (Ret.) Harry Thomas,
Mr. Jack Thomas Tomarchio,
Dr. Michael H. Van Dusen,
Ambassador (Ret.) Alexander Vershbow,
Ambassador (Ret.) Melanne Verveer,
Ambassador (Ret.) Marcelle M. Wahba,
Ambassador (Ret.) Jake Walles,
Brigadier General (Ret.) George H. Walls,
Jr.,
Brigadier General (Ret.) Steve Warnstadt,
Ambassador (Ret.) Alexander Watson,
Brigadier General (Ret.) Marianne Watson,
Ambassador (Ret.) Linda E. Watt,
Ambassador (Ret.) Earl Anthony Wayne,
Honorable Andy Weber,
Honorable William H. Webster,
Lieutenant General (Ret.) Jack Weinstein,
Ambassador (Ret.) Allan Wendt,
Mr. Louis M. Werdebach,
Ambassador (Ret.) Alexa Wesner,
Ambassador (Ret.) David Bruce Wharton,
Ambassador (Ret.) Kevin Whitaker,
Ambassador (Ret.) Barry B. White,
Ambassador (Ret.) Pamela White,
Mr. Jon A. Wiant,
Ambassador (Ret.) Bisa Williams,
Major General (Ret.) Michael Wilson,
Ambassador (Ret.) Frank G. Wisner,
Brigadier General (Ret.) Kevin B. Wooton,

Captain Pamela Jean Wynfield,
Ambassador (Ret.) Kenneth Spencer
Yalowitz,
Ambassador (Ret.) John M. Yates,
Ambassador (Ret.) Stephen M. Young,
Ambassador (Ret.) Marie L. Yovanovitch,
Honorable Joseph Zengerle,
Honorable Jane B. Zimmerman.

FURTHER INCREASES IN ENERGY COSTS

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, as Congress leaves for the weekend, we have to alert the American public over the potential results of the Build Back Better bill as well as the American Rescue Plan that was already passed.

Soon we will be getting our winter heat bills in the Midwest. If you are from Wisconsin, if you are from Michigan, if you are from Minnesota, look out, because we have a big increase in energy costs, and you ought to be cutting back on your spending right now.

In any event, this bill looks like it is stoked up for more spending, which means more inflation. We have new Pell grants for people who are here illegally, and the idea of getting free college for people here illegally and paying for it by inflating the dollar still more is just plain irresponsible.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the American people to pay attention because if this bill passes, it will be further increases in your heat bill.

IRS SURVEILLANCE

(Mr. ROSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, today I come to the House floor with bad news for American workers and small businesses. Democrats are pushing a misguided provision within their massive tax-and-spend boondoggle that will allow the Internal Revenue Service to spy on practically every financial account in the United States.

Included in their \$5.5 trillion socialist, tax-and-spend package is a proposal to create an IRS surveillance program that would require all financial institutions to monitor, track, and report accounts that have more than \$10,000 worth of inflow or outflow in a given year without limit.

This is nothing short of widespread, indiscriminate government spying that lays bare a direct threat to our American way of life. The Democrats' plan to give the IRS unfettered access to the personal and private finances of American citizens is a gross abuse of power and should be deeply concerning to anyone who values privacy and economic inclusion.

Given the IRS' past reputation, there is little reason to believe in the agency's capacity to protect this unprecedented access to our personal financial

information from cyberattacks and other security breaches.

As the concept of a surveillance state becomes more of a reality, we must oppose Democrats' far-left, socialist policies.

BUDGET RECONCILIATION AND THE HYDE AMENDMENT

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, as with any massive spending package, the Democrats' \$3.5 trillion—it may be getting smaller—reconciliation bill does have some good items in it that we could agree on in a better package, such as critically important disaster relief funds for fires, flood, and other recovery efforts.

Unfortunately, tucked amongst this are some necessary programs but also attempts by the Democrats to once again circumvent the Hyde amendment, originally passed in the House in 1976, and which would force American taxpayers to fund elective abortions.

In the reconciliation bill, there are millions of dollars worth of public health grants not Hyde-protected. This bill also mandates abortion coverage in the Affordable Care Act for plans covering individuals above the poverty line.

Additionally, it sets aside \$1.75 billion for public health activities that would allow the CDC to construct facilities that perform elective abortion and trains others to do so.

If this bill is adopted as currently written, violating the Hyde amendment, all Americans will have to pay for abortions regardless of their State's policies or their own moral or religious convictions.

AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE ON THE MOVE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this morning President Joseph Biden was brilliant. He gathered together the members of the Democratic Caucus, and he spoke to the American people about the brilliance of a seismic, monumental effort to change the lives of generations of Americans.

We as Democrats stood united behind the framework of Build Back Better, realizing that we will change the lives of kindergartners and children across the land and change the world. With universal preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds; affordable, high-quality childcare; affordable, high-quality care for hundreds of thousands of those older Americans in the latter part of their lives, allowing them to live at home in dignity—expanded child tax cut, is what I would like to call it—we stood unified.

For all the chattering about friends on the other side of the aisle, name one

good deed that they have done to change generations of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand with Joe Biden, the President of the United States. When he leaves and goes to the G20, he will be able to say that he has a united Caucus that believes in climate change, that believes in humanity and the human infrastructure that Build Back Better is.

We are on the move. We are on the road. We are going to pass both bills. And we are going to change Americans' lives forever and ever and ever. I am proud to be a Democrat and to stand in this monumental era of our time.

Mr. Speaker, tell the American people we are on the move.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN THE ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 5763, FURTHER SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2021

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of H.R. 5763, the Clerk be directed to make the correction I have placed at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the changes.

The Clerk read as follows:

On page 3, line 17, insert "of this section" after "(c)".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Rhode Island?

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until noon on Monday next for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 7 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, November 1, 2021, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-2547. A letter from the Director, Regulations Management Division, Rural Development Innovation Center, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's funding opportunity announcement — Rural eConnectivity Program [Docket Number: RUS-21-Telecom-0010] received October 25, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-2548. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation Regulations, Office of Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Extension of Time and Required Disclosures for Notification of Nonpayment of Rent [Docket No.: FR-6286-I-01] (RIN: 2501-AD99) received October 19, 2021, pursuant to